

Appl. No. : 10/644,394
Filed : August 19, 2003

REMARKS

By this paper, the Applicant has cancelled Claims 17-20 and 31-38, without prejudice. Thus, Claims 1-16, 21-30, and 39-48 are now pending.

The issue raised in the Office Action is the requirement for restriction of examination of the application to one of three groups of claims identified by the Examiner. More particularly, the Examiner identified Group I consisting of Claims 1-16, 21-30, and 39-48; Group II consisting of Claims 17-20 and 33-38; and Group III consisting of 31-32. In a telephone interview, the Examiner clarified that Group I claims include Claims 1-16, 21-30, and 39-48. In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, the Applicant provisionally elects Claims 1-16, 21-30, and 39-48 (i.e., Group I) for examination and cancels Claims 17-20 and 31-38, without prejudice.

The second issue raised in the Office Action is the requirement for restriction of examination of the application to one of two species identified by the Examiner in elected Group I, Figure 1 (Claims 1-16 and 39-48) and Figure 8 and 9 (Claims 21-30). The Examiner noted that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for election of species, the Applicant provisionally elects Figure 1 (disclosed in Claims 1-16 and 39-48) for consideration by the Examiner.

Since the Applicant has responded to the requirement for restriction and has made the required election, the Applicant submits that the application is now in order for action on the merits. If the Examiner finds any impediment to the prompt allowance of the elected claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned.

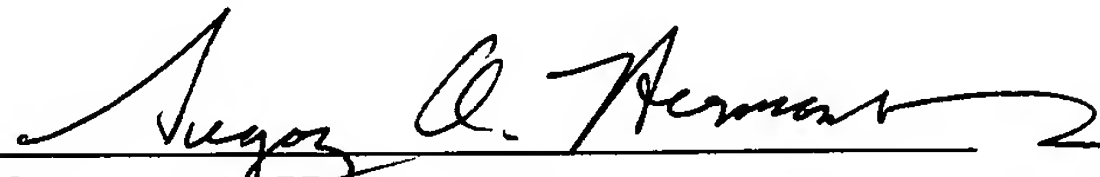
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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: December 28, 2004

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